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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Division Director

Inspection Report

Supervisor ARZ

Minerals Regulatory Program

Date of Report: July 19, 2007

Mine Name: Alta Helena

Permit number: Assigned
S0350034 (Unpermitted)

Operator Name: Marvin Melville

Inspection Date: June 29, 2007
Time: about 9:45 to 10:30 AM

Inspector(s): Paul Baker and Daron haddock

Other Participants: Jim Allen and Liana Gregory (Attorney General's Office); Laura McIndoe (Town of Alta)

Mine Status: Appears to be active but possibly not as a mine

Weather: Clear, 60s

Elements of Inspection

	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

Work has been done on the portal, and our purpose was to look at the site and see whether we could determine if it should be permitted under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

In 2006, the Division received phone calls from John Guldner with the Town of Alta asking about this site. It is apparently a historic mine, and the land owner has been doing some work around the portal. Mr. Guldner wanted to know whether the site should be permitted with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Division representatives did not visit the site at that time, but based on verbal information and photographs received from Mr. Guldner, it did not appear that permitting was necessary.

The Division received a records request under GRAMA from Mr. Melville, but none of the proceedings from 2006 had been in writing. The only records from this period are photographs taken in 2004 and probably 2005 or 2006, I believe by Mr. Guldner.

2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)

The site is in the Albion Basin within the area of the Alta ski resort. According to verbal information and photographs the Division has received, Mr. Melville cleared some material from in front of a historic mine portal and has built a structure extending about 20 feet from the entrance (Photos 1-3). I believe Photos 1 and 2 were taken October 15, 2004. There is a metal frame covered, at least on the top, with metal sheeting. Rock walls have been built on either side of the opening which has a locked wooden door. Dirt and rock cover most of the top of the structure, but there is a small gap between the back of the roof of the structure and the old mine portal.

As shown in Photo 3, there was a small stream of water coming from under the door.

The road leading to the portal appears to have been recently maintained, but because there is evidence of an old road extending up the hill beyond the portal, it also appears this road existed prior to the recent work.

10. Revegetation

We found numerous grass seedlings growing on the pad in front of the portal (Photo 6), but I did not see any on the outslope (Photo 7). It is too early to determine what species are present. I understand this seeding was done by the Alta ski resort.

12. Other

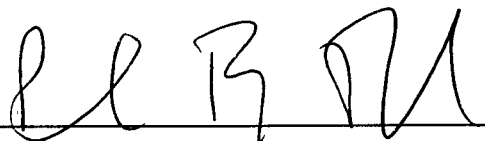
I collected GPS data on the pad in front of the mine and along the short section of road leading to the mine. A copy of the map is included with this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

From our observations, it is not clear whether the operator is conducting mining or exploration operations as defined in the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act and whether this site needs to be permitted. I recommend that the Division inform Mr. Melville of the requirements of the Act and ask him to supply further information concerning his activities so the Division can make a better determination.

Considering the proximity of this site to heavily used recreation areas, I recommend that additional work be done to secure the opening to the mine. As mentioned above, there is a small gap between the structure Mr. Melville has built and the mine opening, and it would not be hard for a person to dig this out and possibly enter the mine. I do not know the condition of the mine and what hazards might exist.

Inspector's Signature



Date:

7/30/07

PBB:pb

cc: Marvin Melville
Laura McKindoe, Town of Alta
Attachments: GPS map and Photos

**ATTACHMENT
Photographs**

**Assigned S0350034 (unpermitted), Alta Helena Mine, Marvin Melville
Inspection Dated: June 29, 2007; Report Dated: July 19, 2007**



Photo 1. This picture and Photo 2 were apparently taken October 15, 2004, and show the historic portal opening.



Photo 2.



Photo 3. This shows the structure that has been built in front of the mine opening. Note the small highwall remnant in the upper right portion of the picture.



Photo 4. There is a small gap between the newly-built structure and the highwall.



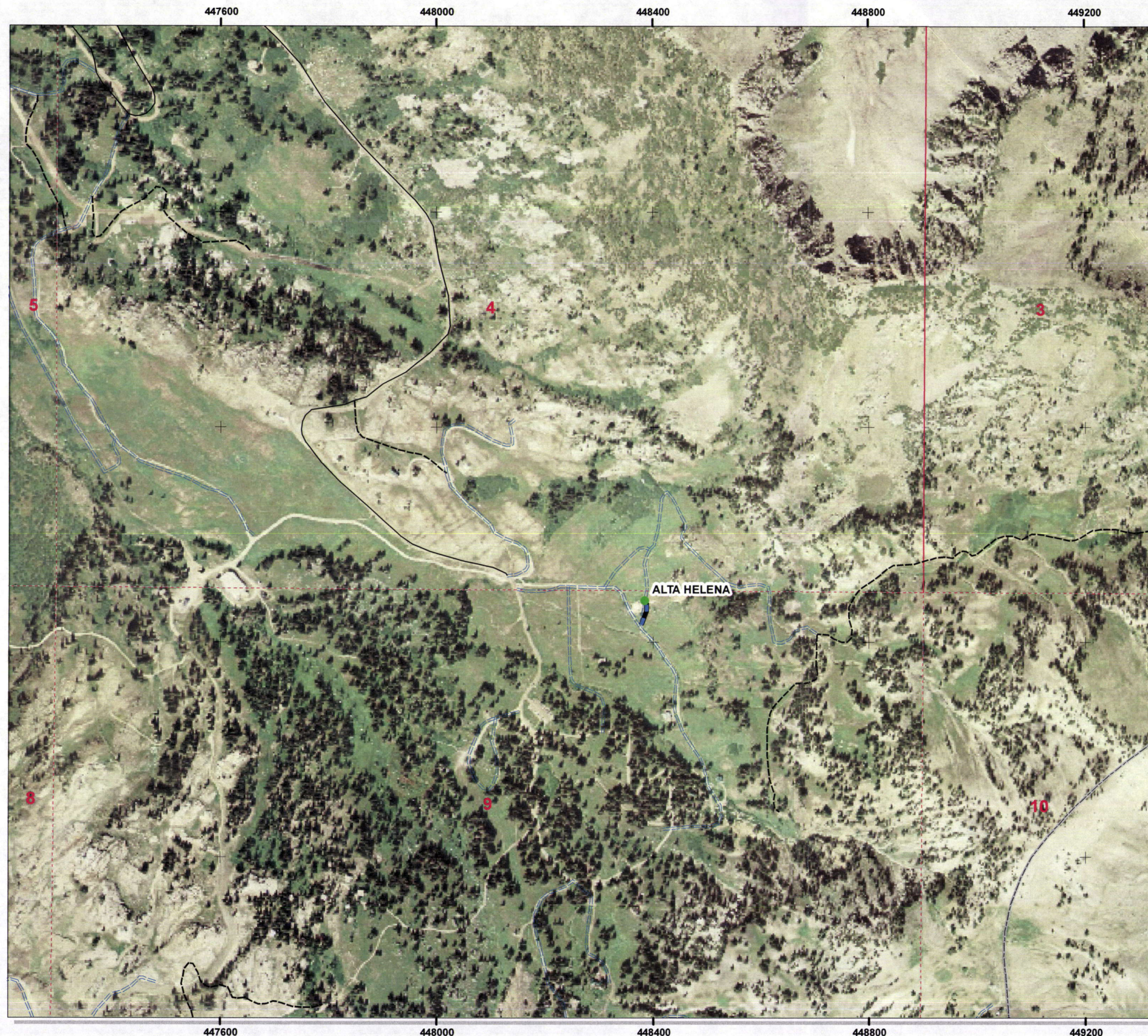
Photo 5. The highwall above the historic mine.



Photo 6. Seedlings on the pad in front of the mine.



Photo 7. The pad outslope.



Mine Number: S0350024
Mine Name: Alta Helena
Township 03 S Range 03 E Section 09 SLBM

Inspection Date July 06, 2007
Map Produced by DKS

Acres Disturbed	0
Acres Regraded	0
Acres Seeded	0
Road Acres Disturbed	0

Total Acres Disturbed	0
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Acres Released	0
Acres Excluded	0
Acres PreExisting	0
Acres Prelaw	0

Legend

All items symbolized in legend may not be appear on map

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| County Boundary | Township or range Line |
| Access | Township or range line: location doubtful |
| Mine | Section line |
| NonMine | Section line: location doubtful |
| Reclaimed | Disturbed |
| Other | Regraded |
| Interstate | Seeded |
| US Route | Released |
| State Route | Excluded |
| Primary Route | PreExisting |
| Secondary Route | Prelaw |
| Main Dirt Road | Bond Area |
| Unimproved Road | SITLA Mineral Leases |
| Interchange | BLMSalableMinerals |
| Trail | CommunityPit |
| | SITLA Mineral Ownership |

DOQ imagery date 2006



0 625
Feet

1:7,500 1 inch equals 625 feet
Verify Scale

Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
Mineral Mines Program

Different data sources and input scales
may cause misalignment of data layers.
This product may not meet DOGM
standards for accuracy and content.